



Community Development Authority

Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

Agenda Item: Memo re: City Attorney and CDA

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Mason Becker, mbecker@whitewater-wi.gov, 262.443.4458

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The office of city attorney is an office within the city's Department of Administration, covered by section 2.16.040 of the City of Whitewater's Code of Ordinances, "responsible for the conduct of all legal services for the city". Recently, the city hired Steven Chesebro to serve in this role.

As CDA board members are aware, the CDA has been utilizing Stafford Rosenbaum for much of its necessary legal work during 2025.

The city manager has directed me to run the CDA's legal matters through the city attorney's office. The city attorney is still able to outsource matters when conflicts of interest dictate, or when capacity issues arise that make outside reviews necessary. Stafford Rosenbaum will continue and complete work relating to cases they are already involved with.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

Steven Chesebro was hired by the City of Whitewater in July 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

Utilization of the city attorney's office for legal matters will represent a cost savings to the CDA. Thus far in 2025, the CDA has spent \$ \$65,297.26 on outside legal review expenses. While the CDA will still incur some expenses from having the city attorney conduct reviews, and outside reviews will still be necessary from time to time, the net result should be a recognized savings to the CDA.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action is needed at this time; this information is presented for the CDA board's awareness.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

N/A